

Appl. No.: 09/878,850
Amdt. dated 02/15/2005
Reply to Office action of November 15, 2004

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated November 15, 2004. Applicant first notes with appreciation, the Examiner's thorough examination of the application, as evidenced by the Office Action. In response to the Office Action, Applicant has amended the claims. Applicant respectfully reconsideration of the claims and issuance of a Notice of Allowance based on the following remarks.

In paragraph 7, the Office Action indicates that Claims 14, 29, 30, 35, and 38 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Further, in paragraph 8, the Office Action indicates that Claims 31 and 32 are allowed. Applicant first notes that Claim 15 should also be allowable, as it includes the same recitations as Claims 30 and 38. In light of these favorable indications by the Examiner, Applicant has canceled non-elected and non-allowed Claims 1-13, 18-28, 30, 33, 34, 36, and 37. Further, Applicant has amended Claims 14, 15, 29, 35, and 38 placing them in independent form. In light of these amendments, Applicant now submits that Claims 14-17, 29, 31, 32, 35, and 38 are now in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

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therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

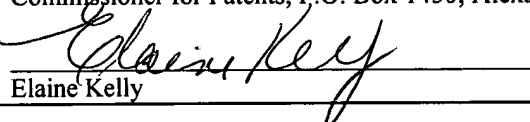


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 15, 2005


Elaine Kelly

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